

82-1131

12 MAY 1982

Executive Registry

82-5038

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Bruce T. Johnson
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Proposed Letter to Vincent Melzac, Art Collector

1. This memorandum proposes that you send the attached letter of appreciation to Mr. Vincent Melzac, whose art collection is the source of many of the art works on display in the Headquarters Building.

2. In a memorandum dated 18 May 1981, I described the work of the Fine Arts Commission (FAC) and asked if you would have time to meet with Mr. Melzac, through whose generosity the main concourse at our building has been brightened by the display of numbers of paintings by members of the Washington Color School. You suggested that we rely on correspondence instead of a personal meeting.

3. Because we were then discussing the exchange of some of the paintings on display with others from the Melzac collection, I elected to delay preparation of a letter for your signature until I could include an expression of thanks for the loan of the new works. The process took many months more than I expected, but in the meantime another event occurred which can properly be included in a letter to Mr. Melzac. He offered, and the FAC happily accepted, the indefinite loan of a bronze statue by Georgio Spaventa, an American sculptor now deceased. It took a while to get an appropriate pedestal display designed and built, but the statue, valued for insurance purposes at \$100,000, was put on display in the main concourse opposite the front entrance on 4 May. Pictures of the statue in place and a copy of the employee bulletin announcing its installation are proposed enclosures to the letter we have prepared for you to send to Mr. Melzac.

4. As this memorandum was being written, Mr. Melzac called to offer us the opportunity to display two particularly valuable paintings by Morris Louis, the best known Washington Color School artist. We are exploring insurance costs and methods of protection (possibly plexiglass) for these works, and hope to be able to take advantage of his offer.

5. It might interest you to know that at the request of Vice President Bush, Mr. Melzac contracted with a young sculptor of his acquaintance, Marc Mellon, to do a portrait bust of Mr. Bush. Mr. Melzac is apparently discussing with the National Portrait Gallery the possibility of adding the bust to their collection. The clay model is complete and has been moved to New York for casting in bronze. The Melzac collection contains a number of small bronzes by Mellon and we have discussed the possibility of putting on a temporary exhibit of these sculptures in our exhibit hall.

6. Your signature on the attached letter to Mr. Melzac will further cement our artistically profitable association with this ardent Agency supporter.

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact a signature.

BRUCE I. JOHNSON

STAT

Attachment:

Letter for DCI Signature

Approved For Release 2005/08/22 : CIA-RDP87-01130R000100100049-6

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		
TO: Chairman, FAC		
ROOM NO. 2D00	BUILDING HQS	
REMARKS:		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

Approved For Release 2005/08/22 : CIA-RDP87-01130R000100100049-6

DD/A Registry
82-1131

12 MAY 1982

Executive Registry
82-5298

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Executive Director
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/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

Bruce T. Johnson

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Letter for DCI Signature

STAT FAC/Chairman/BTJohnson:kf [] (05 May 82)
retyped 06/11 May 1982

Distribution:

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- 2 - FAC, w/att.



Washington, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

82-5038/1

1982

Mr. Vincent Melzac
Locust Hills Farm
Rt. 1, Box 188-C
Romney, West Virginia 26757

Dear Mr. Melzac:

Since becoming the Director of Central Intelligence, I have been made aware of your generous support to our Fine Arts program, in particular your loans of items from your extensive collection. The color school paintings which have graced the walls of the main concourse in our Headquarters Building have brought an added dimension to our environment. We are quite proud of our building, and your paintings are beautifully suited to display in the broad corridors that surround our central courtyard. We also appreciate your willingness to arrange, as you have just done, for exchanges of some of the works on loan with others from your collection, thus providing a welcome variety of color and form.

Now we have another benefaction to thank you for. The bronze sculpture by Giorgio Spaventa was installed in the main concourse, and the enclosed employee bulletin has been published announcing this newest artistic enhancement of our building. The enclosed photographs will give you an idea of how it looks in its new location.

I know that our continuing appreciation for your interest in CIA and your support of our efforts to beautify our surroundings has been expressed to you by members of our Fine Arts Commission, but I wanted to use the occasion of these new acquisitions on indefinite loan from your collection to express to you personally my thanks for your generosity. The art works from your collection are important to us not only for their effect on our working environment, but also as an expression of support for what the CIA stands for. Please accept my genuine thanks.

Sincerely,

W. J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

Enclosures